

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05270 071523Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 CAB-05 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08

FAA-00 /119 W

-----001446 071616Z /47

P 071444Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2435

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 5270

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PINS, MOPS, SHUM, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GOVERNMENT REACTS TO AIRCRASH SURVIVOR MASSACRE

REF: PRETORIA 5226

1. IN REMARKS TO APRLIAMENT ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "NEW COURSE" FOR RHODESIA (REPORTED REFTEL), PRIME MINISTER SMITH REFERRED TO THE KILLINGS OF THE AIRCRASH SURVIVORS ON SEPTEMBER 3. HE IS QUOTED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS AS SAYING " IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND WORDS TO ADEQUATELY DESCRIBE THEIR UTTER BESTIALITY AND THE INHUMANITY OF SUCH CREATURES WHO ARE PREPARED TO PERPETRATE SUCH A FOUL CRIME. INDEED, EVEN TO DESCRIBE THEM AS CREATURES IS AN INSULT TO CREATURES."

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO REPORT TRANSPORT MINISTER BILL IRVINE AS STATING THAT " ONE CANNOT RULE OUT" THE POSSIBILITY OF THE
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 05270 071523Z

PLANE HAVING BEEN SHOT DOWN. IRVINE REPORTEDLY SAID IF A HEAT SEEKING MISSILE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED EXPERTS COULD TELL AND HE HOPED TO KNOW WITHIN THE NEXT TWO DAYS. HE PROMISED TO MAKE ANY FINDINGS PUBLIC AND ADDED " IF THIS (THE PLANE WERE SHOT DOWN) HAPPENED PRESUMABLY, WE WILL TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST IT." IRVINE ADDED THAT AS LONG AS THE UK " CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THIS SORT OF THING WILL GO ON."

EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, MASSACRES, DEATHS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Film Number: D780364-0918
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780993/aaaacyzb.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1efc6856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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